

Message Text

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ORIGIN DOE-15

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APPROVED BY OES/NET/EST:JBRIGHT

ACDA:MROSENTHAL

SC:JMATTHEWS

DOE:JGRiffin

UR/RPE:WSALISBURY

S/AS:RKELLEY

T/D:DHAFEMESITER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114853

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, TECH

SUBJECT: PROPOSED QUADRIPARTITE ENRICHMENT CLASSIFICATION
MEETING

1. USG WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS ANOTHER
IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS ON THE SUBJECT OF CLASSIFICATION
OF GAS CENTRIFUGE URANIUM ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY. THIS
CABLE CONTAINS TEXT OF LETTERS PROPOSING SUCH MEETING,
FOR TRANSMITTAL TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. TWO OF THE
LETTERS ALSO SUGGEST A SEPARATE MEETING INCLUDING THE UK,
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FRG, AND US, ON ADVANCED ISOTOPE SEPARATION RESEARCH: WE
ARE NOT PROPOSING INCLUSION OF THE NETHERLANDS, AS WE UNDER-
STAND THEY ARE DOING LITTLE OR NO WORK IN THIS AREA.
LONDON AND BONN SHOULD EXPLAIN THIS POINT TO APPROPRIATE
HOST OFFICIALS.

2. TEXT OF LETTER FOR LONDON:

A. SINCE THE EARLY DAYS OF PROCESS DEVELOPMENT, THERE HAS BEEN CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF PROLIFERATION OF ISOTOPE SEPARATION TECHNOLOGY. THIS CONCERN WAS MUTUALLY RECOGNIZED IN 1960 WITH THE RESULTING QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON CLASSIFICATION OF GAS CENTRIFUGE INFORMATION, WHEREBY THE FRG, THE NETHERLANDS AND UK CONCURRED IN THE US ASSESSMENT OF THE PROLIFERATION IMPLICATIONS OF THE UNIFORM CLASSIFICATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES WITHIN THE FOUR COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN GAS CENTRIFUGE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH INFORMAL, THIS AGREEMENT HAS PROVEN EFFECTIVE AS A METHOD OF CONTROLLING THE DISSEMINATION OF GAS CENTRIFUGE ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY.

B. SINCE OUR LAST MEETING IN 1972, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO GAS CENTRIFUGE PROCESS DEVELOPMENT. IT WOULD SEEM AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR A GENERAL REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF OUR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF MUTUAL CLASSIFICATION ISSUES AND CONCERNS THAT MAY HAVE ARisen OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS. AS YOU KNOW, THE US IS CURRENTLY APPROACHING LARGE-SCALE APPLICATION OF THE GAS CENTRIFUGE PROCESS, AND WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME LIMITED DECLASSIFICATION ACTIONS IN THIS AREA IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL ENRICHMENT CAPACITY WITHIN THE

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REQUIRED TIME SCHEDULE. IN KEEPING WITH PAST PRACTICES, WE WOULD LIKE TO CONSULT WITH THE FRG, THE NETHERLANDS AND THE UK CONCERNING OUR PLANS IN THIS REGARD. IN VIEW OF THE AFOREMENTIONED, WE PROPOSE A MEETING OF THE FOUR PARTIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE SUGGEST THAT SUCH A MEETING TAKE PLACE IN LONDON ON MAY 25 OR JUNE 6.

C. BRITISH AUTHORITIES ATTENDING THE FEBRUARY 2-3, 1978 LONDON ROUND OF US/UK TECHNICAL NON-PROLIFERATION DISCUSSIONS INDICATED A PREFERENCE FOR A PRELIMINARY US/UK BILATERAL PRIOR TO THE PROPOSED QUADRIPARTITE MEETING. WE SUGGEST THAT SUCH A BILATERAL TAKE PLACE IN LONDON THE DAY BEFORE THE QUADRIPARTITE MEETING.

D. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH UKAEA AND MOD REPRESENTATIVES AND THEY SUPPORT THE IDEA OF GOVERNING THE QUADRIPARTITE MEETING.

E. IN ADDITION TO A DISCUSSION OF OUR GAS CENTRIFUGE AGREEMENT, WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS A RELATED ISSUE. A NUMBER OF NATIONS HAVE BECOME INVOLVED IN RESEARCHING NOVEL METHODS OF ISOTOPE

SEPARATION, WITH THE RESULT THAT MANY NEW TECHNOLOGIES ARE BEING DEVELOPED. IN THE INTEREST OF CONTROLLING THE PROLIFERATION OF SUCH TECHNOLOGY, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING WITH THE UK AND THE FRG THE PROTECTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF OTHER METHODS OF ISOTOPE SEPARATION CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. WE SUGGEST THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRG, UK AND US MEET IN LONDON ON MAY 26 OR JUNE 7 TO DISCUSS ADVANCED

ISOTOPE SEPARATION.

F. ASSUMING YOUR CONCURRENCE IN THE AFOREMENTIONED PROPOSALS, THE US PLANS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN PREPARING SEPARATE DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WHICH

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WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO EACH OF THE PARTICIPANTS FOR COMMENT.

G. AS IN THE PAST, THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD NOT INVOLVE THE EXCHANGE OF ANY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION OR TECHNOLOGY.

3. TEXT OF LETTER FOR BONN.

A. SAME AS PARA 2A.

B. SAME AS PARA 2B.

C. SAME AS PARA 2E.

D. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE UK CONCERNING THESE PROPOSALS AND THEY SUPPORT THE IDEA OF CONVENING THE QUADRIPARTITE MEETING. IN ADDITION, DR. LOOSCH, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, HAS INDICATED THAT THE FRG WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A MEETING.

E. SAME AS PARA 2F.

F. SAME AS PARA 2G.

4. TEXT OF LETTER FOR THE HAGUE.

A. SAME AS PARA 2A.

B. SAME AS PARA 2B.

C. SAME AS PARA 2F.

D. SAME AS PARA 2G. CHRISTOPHER
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NNN

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